



## Allopurinol (Zyloprim®)

*At the Clinical Center referred to as allopurinol (al-oh-PURE-I-nol).*

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**How Given:** Orally (by mouth) or intravenously (by vein).

**Drug Action:** Death of cancer cells causes uric acid to build up in the blood and urine. Allopurinol stops build-up of uric acid.

**Side Effects:**

1. Skin rashes and itching can occur. These effects will go away when the dose is lowered or the medication is stopped.
2. Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea can occur.
3. Drowsiness can occur.

**Special Instructions:**

1. Take allopurinol during or after meals to decrease upset stomach.
2. Drink 10 to 12 glasses of liquid each day to keep your kidneys working well.
3. **Do not** drink alcohol or beverages containing alcohol while taking Allopurinol. Alcohol can increase the amount of uric acid in the blood and lessen the effect of allopurinol.
4. **Do not** take any prescription or over-the-counter medications without talking to your NIH doctor. These include vitamins, herbal treatments, nose drops, cold, flu, headache, pain, hay fever, and allergy medications.
5. **Do not** drive a car, operate machinery, or do activities requiring mental alertness until you know your reaction to this drug.

6. Call your NIH doctor or nurse if you

- are unable to take allopurinol
- have a skin rash, itching, or hives
- are unable to drink for more than 1 day or unable to eat for more than 2 days
- have diarrhea for more than 2 days
- have daytime drowsiness that makes it hard to do your usual activities



This information is prepared specifically for patients participating in clinical research at the Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center at the National Institutes of Health and is not necessarily applicable to individuals who are patients elsewhere. If you have questions about the information presented here, talk to a member of your healthcare team.

Living with Cancer Chemotherapy Series  
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National Institutes of Health, CC Nursing Department

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